

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips US 4,124,226 in view of Reinicker et al. US 4,342,335. The Examiner states that Phillips has all of the claim limitations except Phillips does not disclose that the control levers can be manually moved to an auto-retract position and retained in the auto-retract position through a responsive means that overcomes the biasing action for moving the legs from any of the plurality of extended or retracted positions to the fully retracted position. The Examiner further states that Reinicker et al. teaches that the practice of manually moving a control lever 10 to an auto-retract position and retaining the lever in the auto-retract position through a responsive means 34 that overcomes a biasing action that biases the lever to a neutral position was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made. In order to reduce the issues at hand, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now canceled claim 2. Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 adds additional limitations that when taken in combination with amended claim 1 is patentable over the applied references.

Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled and the limitations of claim 16 have been added to allowable claim 18. Consequently, independent claim 18 is now in condition for allowance.

New claims 19 and 20 have been added to claim additional features to which Applicants are entitled.

New claim 21 is the indicated allowable claim 6 written in independent form including all of the limitations of original claim 1 from which it depended. Claim 21 is now in condition for allowance.

New claim 22 is the indicated allowable claim 10 written in independent form including all of the limitations of original claims 1 and 9 from which it depended. Claim 22 is now in condition for allowance.

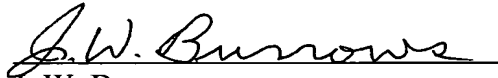
New claim 23 is the indicated allowable claim 8 written in independent form including all of the limitations of original claim 1 from which it depended. Claim 23 is now in condition for allowance.

New claims 24 which depends from new claim 23 adds additional limitations that when taken in combination with new claim 23 is allowable over the cited references.

None of the references of record taken singularly or in combination teach or make obvious the invention claimed herein.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the application at issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. W. Burrows", written in black ink on a white background.

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